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Ane no Kekkon

Volume 3, Chapter 13

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小学館
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雑誌 46054-68　　小学館

Yori continues an affair with married man Maki. In order for them to be together, he prepares new living arrangements for them, but her former teacher semi-coerces her into meeting single, elite, young man, Kawahara, whom she also continues having a less-than-lovers relationship with... Volume 3 of a deep and mature love story that paints a frank look at love!

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Author's Message

By the way, what does "Cherry-blossom flavor" actually taste like? I mention this because the other day, I ate a "Cherry-blossom ice cream," which was suprisingly delicious, but did not resemble any "Cherry-blossom flavor"... Hmm, so maybe they should call it the "leaves" instead? But the color was pink...

●カバーイラストレーション／西 炯子
●カバーデザイン／黒木香+ベイブリッジ・スタジオ

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西炯子

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ANE NO KEKKON

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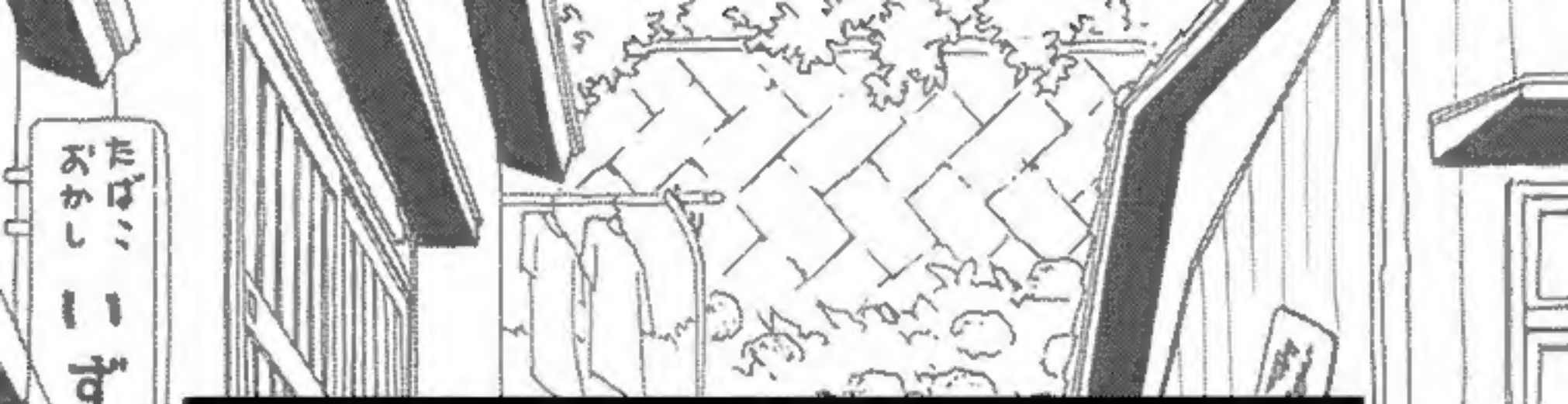

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CHARACTER INTRODUCTION

MAKOTO MAKI An attractive psychiatrist and married. Has been in love with Yori since middle school. In order to spend time with her, he rents out a house, and is getting the place ready.

YORI IWATANI In her forties and unmarried. Moved back to her hometown in order to have a quiet life as a single woman, but ends up having an affair with Maki.

YOICHIRO KAWAHARA

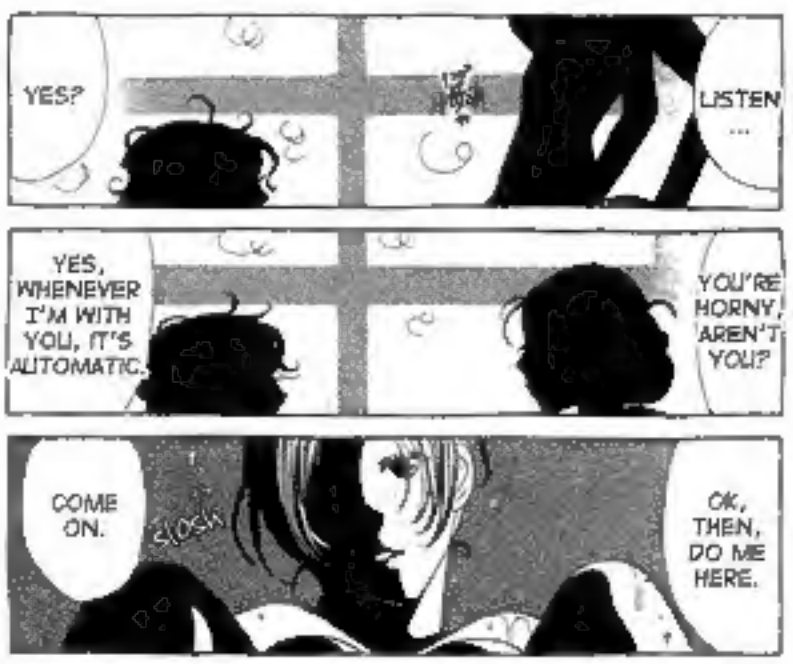
A local-news reporter for Nakasaki News-paper. Single. Cheerful and has a good personality.

RUIKO IWATANI

Yori's younger sister who came to stay at her house uninvited. Is extremely concerned about her Sister.

PREVIOUS VOLUME SUMMARY

Yori returns to her hometown from Tokyo. After being pursued unrelentingly by Maki, her former classmate from middle school, they begin a relationship. Even though she sees no future in two people having an affair, she has grown accustomed to him. Then one day, her professor from university semi-coerces her to be introduced to Kawahara, who invites her to a home party...



COFFEE

piece.13 THE IDEAL MAN CHECKLIST

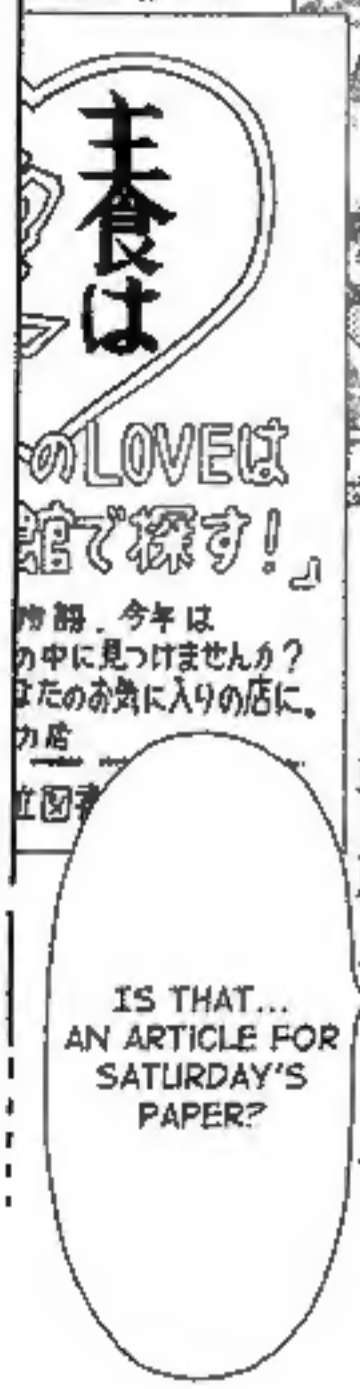
FINDING "LOVE" IN THE LIBRARY

A NEW EXPERIMENT AT THE PREFECTURAL LIBRARY

喫茶店と提携 若い女性にアピール

今回の企画の特徴は何と言っても、喫茶店で〝出張図書館〟を試みること。企

「友達の家に遊びに来るような気分で訪れてみてください」と語る司書岩谷ヨリさん



本と向き合…

忘れてしまっていた気持を取り戻してもらって

MY NAME IS YORI IWATANI.

I WAS BORN IN THIS TOWN, AND LEFT WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.

I WENT TO UNIVERSITY IN TOKYO, GOT A JOB, AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, FORTY WAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

TWO YEARS AGO, I RETURNED TO MY HOME-TOWN AND TOOK UP A POST AS A LIBRARIAN...

WHAT WAS SHE LIKE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?

A BOOK-WORM!

I THINK SHE WAS LIKE A PERMANENT FIXTURE IN THE LIBRARY?

I THOUGHT

I WOULD JUST GO INTO "SEMI-OLD AGE" ALL BY MYSELF . .

DO YOU KNOW HER OR SOMETHING?

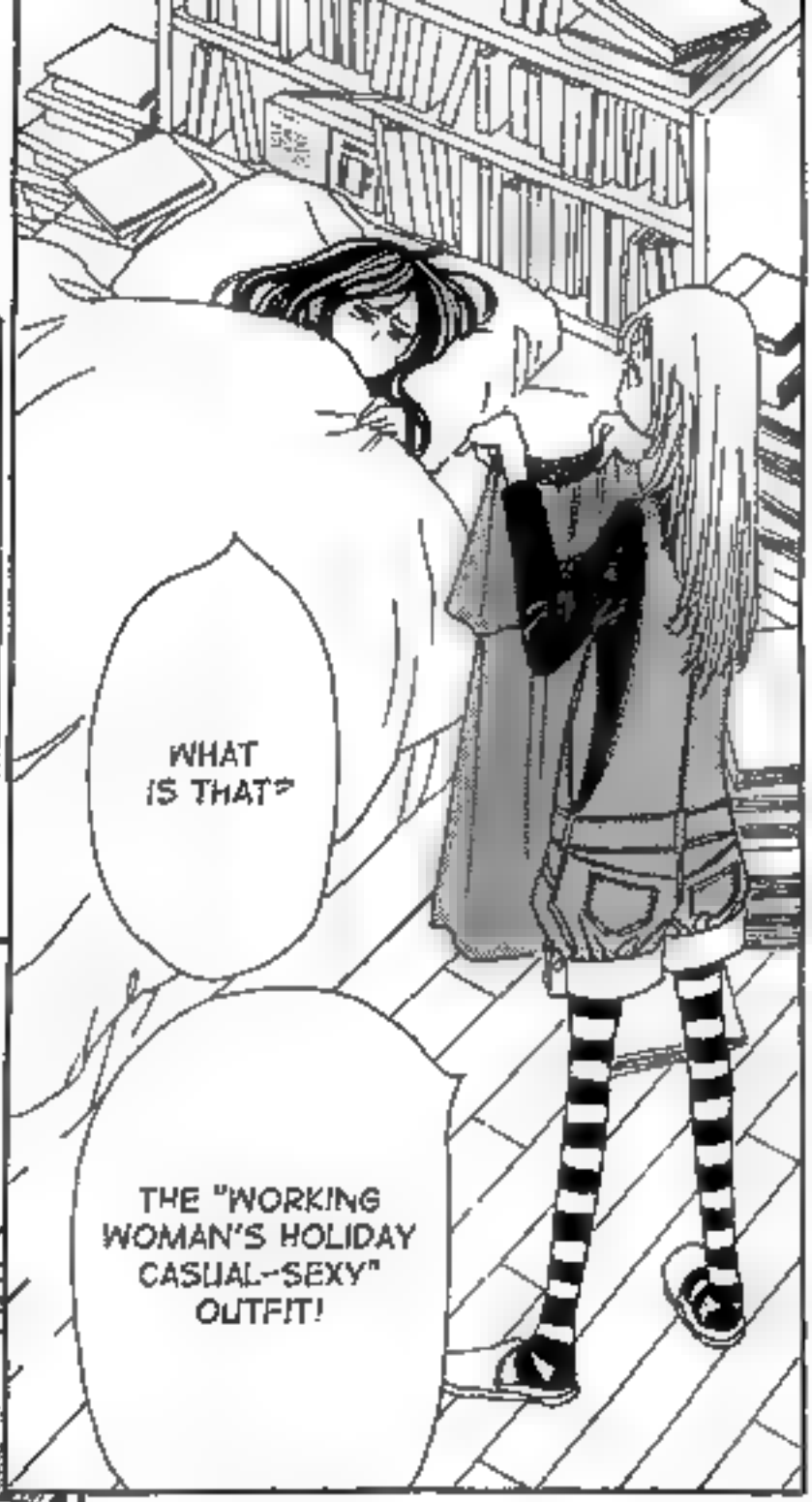
NO, I JUST THOUGHT SHE SEEMED LIKE SOMEONE EVERYONE WOULD WANT TO TALK ABOUT

HUH

YEAH, SHE WAS MY SENIOR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!

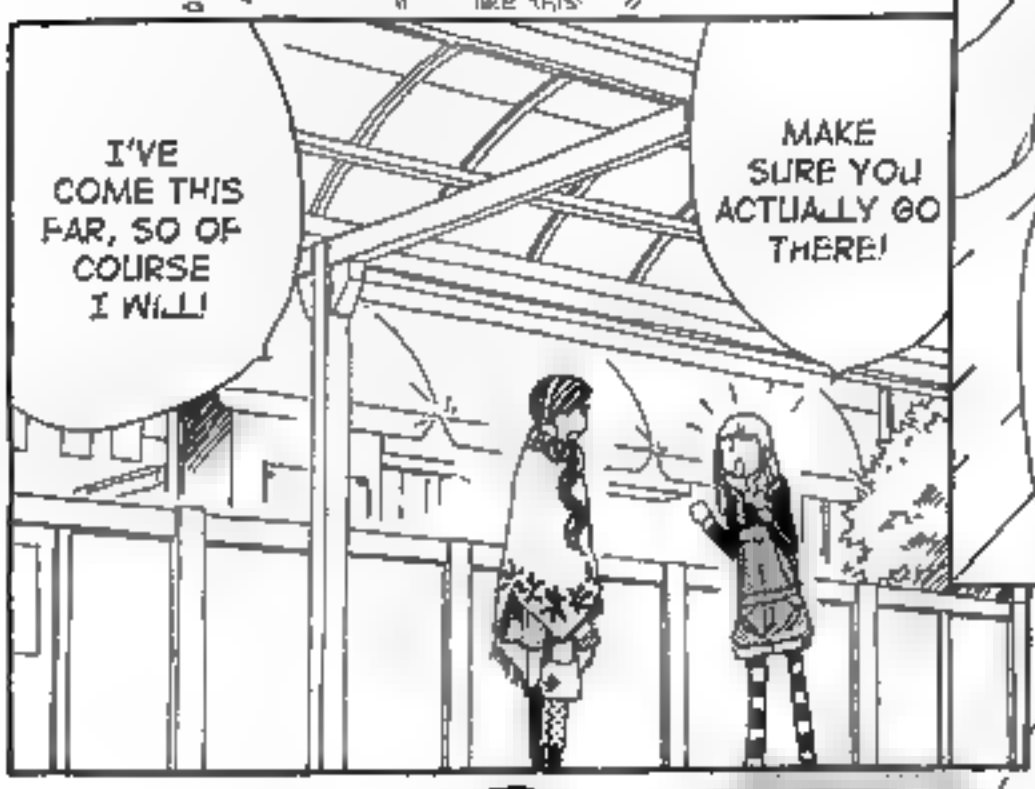
THURSDAY

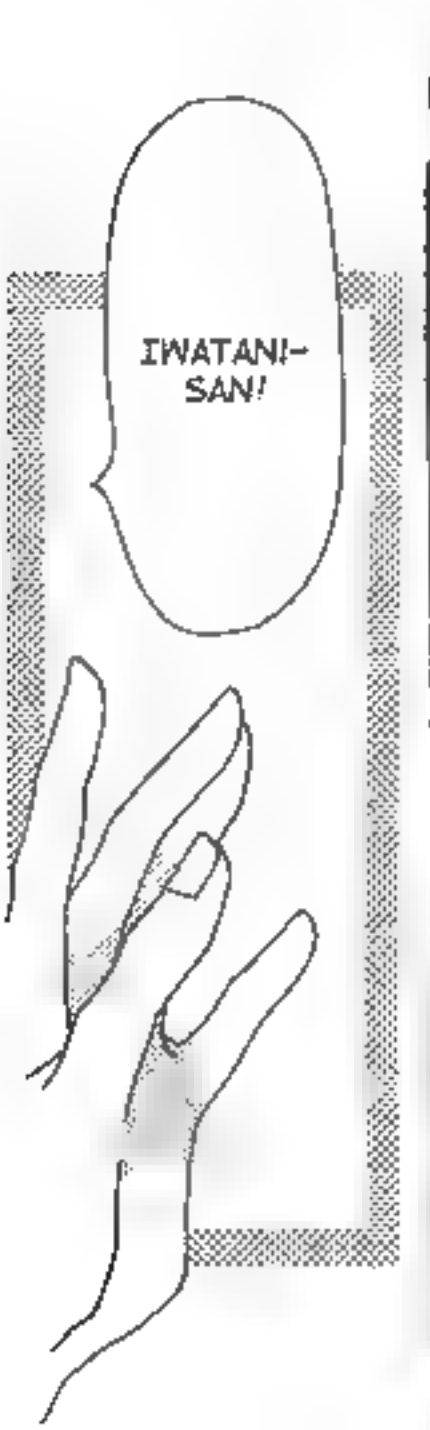
A HOLIDAY



Oh my god! Shut up!

Ok now change into this Get into this Fix your hair like this





IT'S OK, THE CURRY WAS CALLING FOR ME

I'M SORRY FOR DRAGGING YOU OUT ON YOUR HOLIDAY WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

oh-to great

CHECK!

It's that apartment over there

ACTUALLY, I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH MEETING PEOPLE I DON'T KNOW OUTSIDE OF WORK

Reluctant

Hello

Dejected

I'M BACK! BOUGHT YOU THE CUCUMBERS!

YEAH, THANKS!

OH,

HELLO THERE!

HUH? KAWAHARA-SEMPAI, IS SHE YOUR GIRLFRIEND?

WHOA.

IN EXCHANGE FOR MY ENTRANCE FEE

NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL WITH US.

I'll take your coat for you

HERE, IF YOU DON'T MIND GINGER TEA

IT MUST HAVE BEEN COLD OUTSIDE.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME OVER TODAY

UH, NO

THIS IS IWATANI-SAN

CHECK

HUH? IT'S DONE ALREADY

DRAIN IT OUT.

He's warming me up

AKAI, DO YOU WANT ME TO TRANSFER THE SALAD TO A BOWL?

THAT'S NOT REALLY NECESSARY

IT IS FOR A TOP RESTAURANT IN PARIS.

SURE.

OH, CAN YOU, PLEASE?

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DRY IT OUT WITH KITCHEN TOWELS?

I HATE WEARING TUNICS,

BUT I'M GLAD I AM SINCE I'M COOKING

BRAVO, RUI THE SCHEMER ..

BUT

HE'S MADE ANOTHER "CHECK" ON MY LIST .

HAHAHA

BUT THIS IS NAKASAKI,

AND YOU'RE MAKING CURRY

CHECK

O

Wh What should do_?

ARE ALL OF THEM COWORKERS OF YOURS?

About work and such?

..

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

AND THAT WOMAN?

BROAD-CASTING STATION

WHAT ABOUT HIM?

THE CURRY GUY'S THE ONLY ONE FROM THE SAME COMPANY

CHECK

CHEERS!

I HAVEN'T TOLD THEM ABOUT YOU.

YOU DON'T WANT TO PASS OUT YOUR BUSINESS CARD DURING A HOLIDAY, DO YOU?

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE MY MOM!

GOSH, KAWA-HARA-SEMPAI,

NOMOTO, DRY-CURED HAM.

HERE

THIS IS REALLY GOOD

I'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?

WHAT ARE YOU BLABBING ABOUT, HAYASHI?

I CERTAINLY CAN! KAWAHARA, MARRY ME ALREADY!

AW, WHY CAN'T YOU JUST APPRECIATE ME?

YOU'RE MAKING IT HARD ON US WOMEN

YOU'RE ALWAYS TOO THOUGHT-FUL, SEMPAI.

I THOUGHT YOU LIKED IT? I GAVE YOU THE BEST PART

AHAHAHAHA!

No, not Hayashi!

HA HA HA

WOULD YOU SAY YES TO AKAFUKU?

Get married already, you two!

THE CURRY WAS DELICIOUS

WHAT KIND OF DESSERT IS THIS?

CHECK

maybe?

I

. APOLOGIZE IF I GOT IN YOUR WAY

I simmer the rice in some milk

HUH?

AKAI-SAN, HOW DID YOU MAKE IT?

IT GOES WELL AFTER THE CURRY, DOESN'T IT?

IT'S A DESSERT FROM TURKEY CALLED SÜTLAÇ.*

*T/N. Turkish Rice Pudding

NO

WHY WOULD I NEED TO FIND ANY BAD POINTS?!

I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND ANY BAD POINTS

OH, NO

SO HE'S THE TYPE THAT HELPS OUT AROUND THE HOUSE

AT MY HOUSE, IT'S JUST ME AND MY MOM.

SO I GET TEMPTED TO HELP OUT IN THE KITCHEN.

IWATANI -SAN,

WOULD YOU MIND IF I INVITE YOU OUT AGAIN?

GRIN

DON'T YOU THINK THEY'RE A PERFECT MATCH?

HOLD UP, HOLD UP! LET'S NOT RUSH ANYTHING AND JUST WATCH OVER THEM WITH LOVE!

SHE MIGHT BE THE ONE.

WHAT ABOUT NEXT SUNDAY?

UM

NO

KTONK

KTONK

UM

THAT SUNDAY

OH, I SEE

OH

TRY TEXTING ME.

...

EVEN IF IT'S NOT ON A HOLIDAY, WE CAN STILL GO OUT TO EAT

...KTAAK

KTOOK

KTAAK

KTOOK

KTAAK

KTOOK

WELL,

IT WAS ONLY A BLIND DATE

I HAVE TO MOVE FORWARD

WELL,

FORGET ABOUT LOVE

I'M NOT IN LOVE ANYWAY

JUST BECAUSE

♫DUN-

♫DA-

♫RA-

FRIDAY

WITH WHAT?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW

HOW IT TURNED OUT?

YOUR NEW LIVING ARRANGE-MENTS.

AND

MY LIFE GETS A RUDE AWAKENING.

YOU ARE NOT LISTE-NING

Well not like you ever do

DID YOU REALLY DO IT ?

All of it?

YOU CAN'T COME JUST YET

BUT .. LOTS OF THINGS ARE CONSTANTLY BEING DELI-VERED, SO

THE HOUSE OF YOUR DREAMS WILL BE FINISHED NEXT WEEK

I DON'T WANT TO

BUT I DON'T MIND IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.

OH, AND THE SOFA AND LACQUERWARE WERE CUSTOM-MADE TO YOUR LIKING

OH, RIGHT, RIGHT! THE OLIVE TREE IS STILL TINY..

THE CURTAINS ARE A STRANGE COLOR, THE POTS ARE HEAVY,

AND WHEN ALL THE FURNITURE IS LINED UP, THEY REALLY CLASH WITH EACH OTHER

THIS MARRIED MAN HERE

I MEET THIS GUY HERE EVERY FRIDAY

HUH?

...

YORI-SAN

Cough
Cough
Cough
I've practiced gynecology as well so just relax
Well it just started
MEN-STRUAL CYCLE!
GEEZ
I KNOW YOUR MENSTRUAL CYCLE, SO PLEASE DON'T WORRY
I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE GIVING FELLATIO, BUT LET'S TAKE OUR TIME AND JUST HAVE A REGULAR CONVERSATION TODAY
IF YOUR PERIOD IS TOO HEAVY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE ME THE BLOWJOB TODAY EITHER
SO EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN, YOU'D STILL KNOW HER CYCLE?
CLUNK
WHA-
SO WE *ARE* GOING?
YOU SINFUL WOMAN! CAUSING A MAN SUCH AS MYSELF, WHO HAS A NAME IN SOCIETY, TO GIVE OVERTURES OF LOVE TO YOU!
roll
roll
clatter
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO TO THE HOTEL.
Not making any sense

CLUB

I WONDER WHY .

EVEN IF WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TODAY, I STILL FEEL LIKE GOING

BUT NEXT WEEK WE'LL BE AT THE NEW HOUSE.

YES, ABOUT THAT

I WON'T MEET YOU ANYWHERE ELSE BUT HERE AFTER ALL.

I'M YOUR LOVER, SO I'D LIKE TO DRAW THE LINE

IT'S INSULTING TO ME TO BLUR THE LINES ANY FURTHER

BECAU-SE,

HE'S NOT THE ONE

HMM

BOS

P

EVEN IF I LOVE HIM

YOU'RE GOING TO THE DEPART-MENT STORE THIS SUNDAY,

AREN'T YOU? WHY NOT BUY YOURSELF A FEW EXTRA THINGS?

YOU'RE BEING PROACTIVE, RIGHT?!

LOOK, RUI.

WHY SHOULD I?

YOU'RE GOING OUT ON MORE DATES WITH KAWAHARA -SAN, AREN'T YOU?

YOU NEVER HAVE ENOUGH WINTER ITEMS, SO YOU NEED TO BULK UP

phew

THAT WAY I CAN GO FIND MYSELF A BOYFRIEND WITHOUT ANY WORRIES.

NO, YOU CAN'T.

I SHOULD TELL MOM AND DAD ABOUT IT!

SUNDAY

HAMAGUCHIYA

A S-
Snood?
What's
that?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NO. ?

Well...

IT MIGHT EVEN MAKE THEM WORRIED, SO. WAIT ON IT

NOTHING'S SET IT STONE YET

side

OK, GOT IT

Just take it down. and things'll work out somehow

your winter to-buy list

What's this?

RUUUSTLE

Oh!
Ohhh!

swish

swish

wobble

wobble

¥CASHER

¥CASHER

YOU CAN ASK TO LEAVE YOUR THINGS OVER THERE

MY SON TOLD ME TO WAIT HERE.

BUT I FORGOT TO BUY SOME-THING.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

yes

But then,

I'D HAVE TO COME BACK HERE, WOULDN'T I?

CHIKO

AHH!

No. don't be.

THANK YOU SO MUCH

THANKS TO YOU, I HAVE EVERYTHING I WANT

Oh, no. not at all.

I'm sorry to bother you.

Um. ok, sure

Just one more

What- Oh, sure, go ahead.

No, maybe two.

One more after this.

Oh, my! Where have YOU been?

Oh! No no, you don't have to:

M-

MOM! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

IN RETURN . .

HOW ABOUT I BUY YOU THIS SCARF?

..

OH

?

AND I HAD FUN

IT'S OK, I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING IMPORTANT TO DO,

MY MOTHER MUST HAVE BEEN A HUGE BOTHER TO YOU

Please be good to my son!

Oh, dear!

Then she's your kwatani-san!

Ohhh!

TAXI STAND

Aoki!

Driver please take her to Namiue Machi 2nd Street

TAXI

HE'S ABSOLUTELY PERFECT, BUT

I DON'T THINK

..HIS MOTHER MUST BE THE REASON BEHIND ALL HIS FAILED RELATIONSHIPS WITH WOMEN .

I'm sorry

she can't be-

whenever she comes.

My mom is,

she's uh,

MY MOTHER IS

ALWAYS LIKE THAT.

very sorry.

I am really

GETTING HARDER AND HARDER FOR HIM TO MARRY AS WELL ..

IT MUST BE

See you

I'll send you a text

MARRIAGE

HUH

FRIDAY

18:05

bip!

18:10

JINGLE JINGLE

MADE A PACT NOT TO WAIT FOR MORE THAN 10 MINUTES.

KTAUK

KTUNK

KTAUK

KTUNK

NEVER HAPPENED UNTIL NOW

KTUNK

KTUNK

THIS HAS

KTUNK

KTUNK

SCREEEEECH...

CHIME

WHOOSH

MADE MAKI PROMISE NOT TO CALL HER.

Sign: MACHI POLICE STATION

町交

THERE WEREN'T ANY ACCIDENTS OR INJURIES TODAY

THIS IS IWATANI

HELLO?

I THOUGHT SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED.

NO

bdump

bdump

bdump

bdump

OH, I'M FINE. ALL I NEED TO DO IS TO TAKE MY MEDICINE, AND I'LL BE BACK ON MY FEET BEFORE THE WEEKEND IS OVER

THE FLU?!

WELL, SEE YOU NEXT WEEK

Bip!

YOU MIGHT GET INFECTED

YOU SHOULDN'T COME

OH.

WHERE DO YOU THINK I AM?

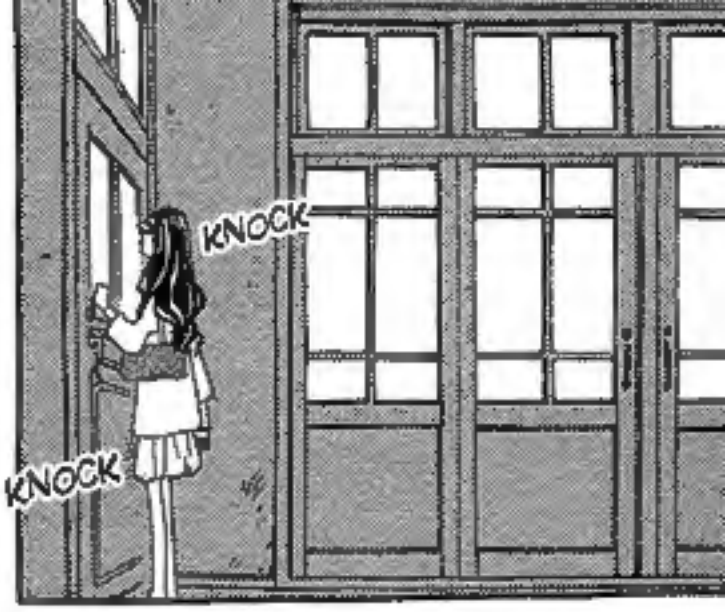
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

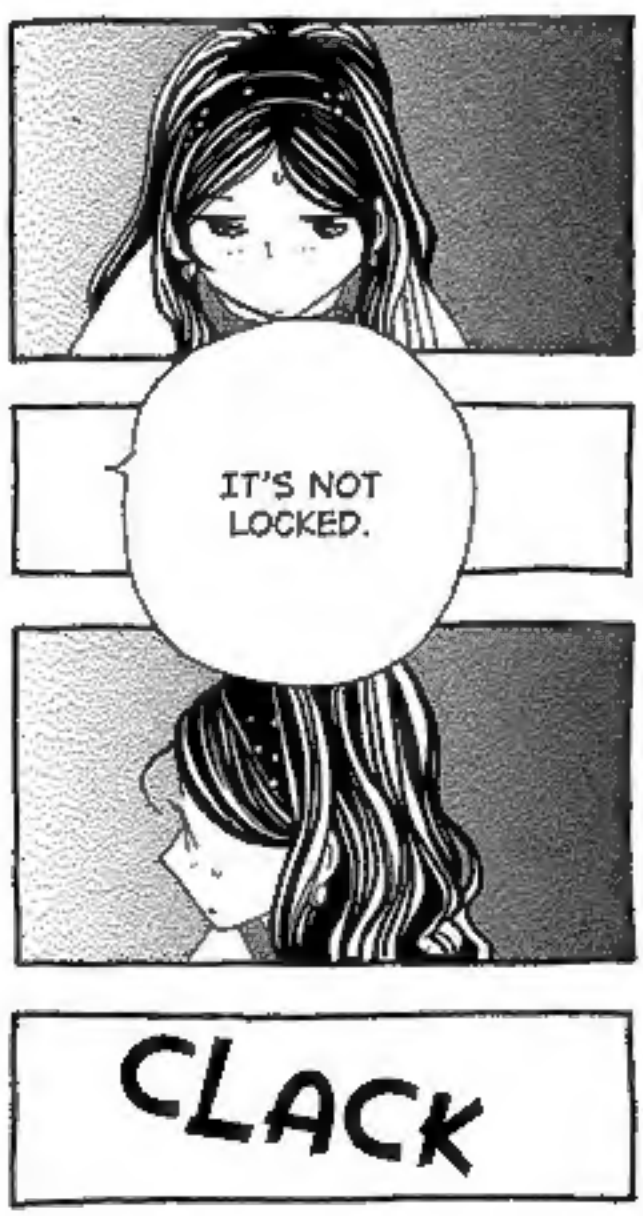
OH...

SO...
THIS WAS
THE HOUSE
...

LAWZ

POTATO


KNOCK
KNOCK


IT'S NOT LOCKED.
CLACK

WHAT ABOUT ...
...YOUR FEVER...?
OH, THAT.

I FAKED THE ILLNESS.

WHAT ABOUT IT?

NO, HE'S NOT THE ONE.

HE DOESN'T EVEN **REGISTER** ON MY CHECKLIST.

HE'S NOT THE ONE, BUT ...